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A Guide to

CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR OHIO



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Adjustment Agency

Farm Around the Hill—



--- GROW MORE PER ACRE ---

OHIO FARMERS report more corn and other crops per acre by CONTOURING INTERTILLED CROPS. This practice is the logical way to farm on sloping land—and is simple. Any farmer with a little training can do it. Contouring retards erosion, conserves moisture, and requires less tractor and animal energy. Planting around the slope so that all plants in one row are on the same level takes less power than planting up and down the hill and requires no extra cash outlay.

Strip Your Field for Action—

ONE OHIO FARMER SAYS: "After contour stripcropping, it took fewer acres of corn to fill my silo." Another farmer reports: "I have harvested as many bushels of marketable potatoes from the strips as I formerly harvested from the entire field."

CONTOUR STRIPCROPPING lessens erosion, stores moisture, saves tractor and animal energy. Like other contour practices, it is easier and cheaper than planting up and down the hill. By alternating strips of row crops with strips of small grain, grasses, and legumes, the farmer has an ideal system of rotation.



--- WHEN SLOPES ARE STEEP ---

Sod Your Waterways—



--- SLOW DOWN THE WASH, PROTECT YOUR TOPSOIL ---

SODDED WATERWAYS and contour cultivation should go together. They allow surplus water from heavy storms to flow safely off the slopes. By slowing down the drainage and catching particles of soil, the sod prevents the formation of gullies. Sod waterways are the most valuable pieces of land on the farm. They lower the cost of farming by eliminating extra turns. They prevent accidents in the crossing of ditches.

Sodded waterways are established by filling in the ditch, leveling, and seeding or sodding with pasture mixtures or native grasses.

Feed Your Pastures—

The health of the Nation indirectly depends on the soil's fertility. Lime increases the calcium content of the soil, which is necessary for the growth of clover, alfalfa, and grass. Fertilizer returns minerals which have been removed by cropping.

Use of lime and fertilizer makes healthier and more productive livestock and increases the food value of farm products consumed by human beings. Many Ohio farmers report more milk production with fewer numbers of cows after liming and fertilizing their pastures.



--- FOR HEALTHIER LIVESTOCK—BETTER NUTRITION ---

Reseed Your Depleted Pasture—



--- GROW BETTER GRASS—LIVESTOCK ---

Livestock and the soil suffer when pastures are worn out. Cows give less milk—the soil washes or blows away for lack of a good stand of grass to protect it. The farmer's income and the health of the Nation are affected.

Ohio pastures properly seeded, limed, and fertilized have produced many times the grass they furnished before, resulting in more milk and other livestock products per animal. Erosion has been reduced. Reseeding should be accompanied by the application of lime and fertilizer and by disking or spring-toothing to prepare a good seedbed. Mowing also is necessary to keep down weeds, which remove valuable plant food and moisture from the soil.

Dam Up Your Water Supply—

Livestock producers should have ponds. A pond is a cheap source of water. It puts farming on a sounder basis by permitting more diversification, and it contributes to flood control. Ohio's water level is receding rapidly. This fact should encourage the farmer to construct a pond on his farm if he has a suitable place. Dams should be large enough to furnish a plentiful water supply and should have spillways large enough to take care of any flood condition. A minimum dam depth of 4 feet is recommended.

Plenty of water and plenty of grass means efficient livestock production.



--- FOR INSURANCE AGAINST DROUGHTS ---

Plant Trees—



--- PLANT FOR PROFIT ---

TREE PLANTING is one of Ohio's most practical and profitable practices. Its results are everlasting. Trees planted on land no longer profitable to farm provide fence posts, firewood, other forest products and stop erosion on steep slopes. Farm wind-breaks provide comfort for the family and protection for livestock and increase the value of the farm.

